

Requirements for Mulch and Wood Processing located in Howard County

These are some of the specific Code references followed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, HCDFRS) requirements for fire protection.

1. *31.3.6.3.5 Water supplies shall be provided in accordance with this code.*

18.3.1 – An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to all premises upon which facilities, buildings, or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into the jurisdiction

18.3.2 – Where no adequate or reliable water distribution system exists, approved reservoirs, pressure tanks, elevated tanks, fire department tanker shuttles, or other approved systems capable of providing the required fire flow shall be permitted.

18.3.3 – The number and type of fire hydrants and connections to other approved water supplies shall be capable of delivering the required fire flow and shall be provided at approved locations.

~ If the operation is located outside of a municipal water supply the following will apply. AHJ will require a reliable certified water supply system with the capability to supply 1000 gallons per every 10,000 cubic feet of product. The supply system must be capable of producing a minimum of 250 gpm (preferred is 500gpm) for at least 2 hours.

~ If this is a static water supply it is to be certified by an engineer and capable to supply the amount needed above. If it is below the minimum amount then it must be capable of at least 30,000 gallons at all times. The maximum size of water supply needed may be based on the proposed operation and approved by the AHJ.

~ Based on the amount of material on site other provisions such as sprinklers, pre-piped systems or constant monitoring of the pile may be required.

~ The Mulch/Wood Processing operations shall have located within 5 travel miles of the location.

~ A copy of the facility's NWWRF or composting permit application, including the Operations Plan and the Emergency Preparedness Manual, shall be sent to HCDFRS for review and recommendations back to DPZ.

~ A copy of these shall be submitted to HCDFRS with each State permit renewal (5 year renewals).

18.3.4 Fire hydrants and connections to other approved water supplies shall be accessible to the fire department.

~ The locations of the static water supply must be approved by the AHJ.

~ They are to be in proximity to the front entrance of the processing/storage operation and must have adequate area to allow a 45' turning radius for fire apparatus.

~ The primary road needs to stay clear to access the processing/storage area adequately and must be paved or constructed so as to provide all weather, year round, access by fire apparatus with a weight of 75,000 GVW.

18.3.5 Private water supply systems shall be tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25.